175 *698 extent are really controlled by the authority of the European district officers. It may seem strange that this race of brave and haughty warriors should have succumbed to tribes so inferior to them in military prowess as the Wakamba and Wa-Kikuyu, but the reason is to be found in the peculiar conditions of their mode of life.

"Once their own flocks and herds were decimated by the great cattle plague of a few years ago, the Masai, a purely pastoral people, were compelled by famine to depend, not partially as before, but exclusively, upon raids, and about half, or perhaps more, of the warriors of a given tribe would be absent for a long period on a foray, leaving the kraal, which with them, owing to the dislike of the whole race for any manual labour, is never stockaded or provided with defensive works of any kind, protected by a few hundred men.

"The Wakamba, and, after the Masai were driven from Ukamba proper into Kikuyu, the Wa-Kikuyu, would be on the watch for these raiding expeditions, and, as soon as one was well on the way, would swoop down on the undefended or only partially defended kraal in overwhelming numbers, and the raiders would return with their spoil only to find their houses in ashes, and the women and children whom they left behind there carried off to be sold as slaves.

"A constant repetition of these tactics, which their necessary dependence, after the famine, upon raids, prevented them from meeting, broke the power and prestige of the Masai, and those in the settled and administered portions of our Protectorate at least, with the single exception of Lenana's tribe, are now a mere feeble fragment of this once redoubtable people.

"They are mostly settled at Ngongo Bagas, a fort seven miles south of the district headquarters of Kikuyu, where they live under the supervision of an English officer.

"Lenana's tribe now have their headquarters at Naivasha, on the Uganda side of the border, Kinangop, their summer quarters, being also under the Uganda administration, and though Lenana himself is said to wish to settle in the East Africa rather than in the Uganda Protectorate (though up till now he and his people have been in the habit of wandering from one to the other), it would probably be most convenient that he should not be encouraged to do so.

"Besides Lenana's, a section of the Naivasha Masai have followed his brother and rival for the Chieftainship, Sendeyo, to the district known as Loita, on the German frontier, and pasture their cattle sometimes on ours, sometimes, but oftener, on the German side of the border. Sendeyo is said to be more hostile to Europeans than Lenana, and his attitude has of late given grounds for thinking that both we and the Germans might have trouble with him. There are also Masai tribes of whom, as yet, we know little or nothing, living at Ndoro, near the base of Mount Kenia.

*698 175 ● 56 "A helot tribe, or rather caste, formed out of various conquered and enslaved neighbouring tribes of Bantu race, constitutes the servile class among the Masai, and performs the necessary domestic and manual labour which the latter deem degrading. This race or caste is known as the Elderobbo: their proportion to the Masai in the Province of Ukamba is said to be about 15 to 100. They are generally paid in kind for their labour, and are free to hunt themselves for meat and ivory, but must give half they get to the chief medicine man of the Masai. They are forbidden to marry Masai women, and their kraals are separate from those of their Masai masters. This is the only approach within the Province to any regular system of domestic slavery. Among its other races, such slaves as exist are generally members of a neighbouring free tribe, made prisoners in a raid.

*698 175 "These raids are, however, fast diminishing, as the authority of our Administration is making itself felt, and Mr. Ainsworth reports to me that, whereas in the years 1892 to 1895 not a month passed without serious troubles in connection with slaving and slave-trading, he has only had to deal in the last twelve months with a few isolated cases, not more than three having occurred in the last quarter.